

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 TEL AV 09996 041932Z
ACTION SS-25

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Z O 041854Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC FLASH 4691
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT FLASH
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM FLASH
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE
USMISSION USUN NY IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T TEL AVIV 9996

EXDIS

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MILI MOPS UNSC LE PBOR IS
SUBJ: SOUTH LEBANON

1. TEHILA CALLED POL COUNSELOR 1845 AUGUST 4 TO RELAY ACCOUNT OF MAJOR HADDAD - LAF LIEUT COL SAAD MEETING THIS AFTERNOON. IT WENT BADLY. ACCORDING TO TEHILA, HADDAD AGAIN ASKED FOR REINSTATEMENT. SAAD TOLD HADDAD HE COULD DO NOTHING AND GENERAL KHOURY COULD DO NOTHING TO MEET HADDAD'S DEMAND BECAUSE OF PRESSURES "FROM HERE AND THERE." SAAD THEN OFFERED HADDAD MONEY TO LEAVE SOUTH LEBANON FOR ANOTHER DESTINATION. TEHILA DIDNT KNOW WHETHER IT WAS INSIDE OR OUTSIDE LEBANON. HADDAD REFUSED THE OFFER AND THE MEETING ENDED WITH HADDAD IN A MOST AGITATED STATE. (WE TAKE IT THIS WAS LEBANESE ATTEMPT TO SETTLE PROBLEM IN THEIR OWN WAY -- BEIRUT 4473)

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2. TEHILA SAID THINGS WERE GOING FROM BAD TO WORSE. HADDAD WAS INSISTING THAT HE BE REINSTATED BEFORE THE LAF COULD MOVE AND, TEHILA ASSERTED, ISRAEL WAS LOSING ITS INFLUENCE WITH HADDAD BECAUSE IT WAS NOT DELIVERING HIS REQUIREMENT. TEHILA PLEADED THAT THE US CONVINCE THE GOL TO REINSTATE HADDAD, OR AT LEAST RESCIND OR POSTPONE THE ORDER RELIEVING HIM OF HIS COMMAND. IF THAT DIDNT HAPPEN, HADDAD WOULD ALMOST CERTAINLY

NOT ALLOW THE LAF TO PASS. BLACKWILL TOLD TEHILA WE HAD BEEN OVER THIS GROUND ENDLESS TIMES IN THE PAST FEW DAYS. IT WAS VIRTUALLY IMPOSSIBLE FOR LEBANESE GOVERNMENT TO REINSTATE HADDAD. ANOTHER SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM HAD TO BE FOUND. THAT WAS THE WHOLE IDEA OF PUTTING THE HADDAD PROBLEM ASIDE. THE AMBASSADOR HAD REPEATEDLY MADE THIS POINT TO WEIZMAN.

3. TEHILA THEN THREW A NEW WRENCH INTO OUR GEARS. HE SAID THAT ORIGINAL ISRAELI AGREEMENT TO SET HADDAD PROBLEM ASIDE HAD BEEN GIVEN BEFORE HADDAD HAD RECEIVED CABLE RELIEVING HIM OF HIS COMMAND. THUS, IT WAS THE GOL WHICH HAD CHANGED THE STATUS QUO AND BROUGHT HADDAD OUT OF THE ICEBOX, NOT HADDAD AND THE ISRAELIS. AND IT WAS THE LEBANESE GOVERNMENT WHICH WAS STANDING IN THE WAY OF A SPEEDY RESOLUTION OF THE PROBLEM. REINSTATE HADDAD AND THE LAF COLUMN COULD GO FORWARD.

4. BLACKWILL AGAIN SAID THAT WAS NOT GOING TO WORK. THE GOL JUST WOULD NOT DO IT. WE HAD TO FIND ANOTHER WAY. TEHILA RESPONDED THAT FOR HADDAD THERE PROBABLY WAS NOT ANOTHER WAY. HE WAS A PROUD MAN AND ISRAEL COULD NOT CONVINCE HIM TO DO WHAT HE WAS UNWILLING TO DO. WITH THAT, THE CONVERSATION ENDED WITH BOTH PARTIES AGREEING TO BE IN TOUCH AS NEEDED. LEWIS

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